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ODYSSEY NEWSLETTER

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1979

WITH SINCEREST DEDICATION
AS A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO PAUL VIOLETTE

We dedicate this issue of the Odyssey Newsletter
to the memory of Paul Violette,
who died of cancer on October 24, 1979
in Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston.
Paul was a good man, a good friend, and
he will be missed by all of us who
knew him.

His death was even harder than his life.
But to the last, through the enormity of
the pain he suffered, his thoughts were
of the friends he was leaving behind.
His kindness, his humour, were always
there.

His girl was there too - a strong and
brave lady whom we admire very much.

Paul said he was on to someplace better.
We are confident that he is.

Jo Anne

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EDITORIAL

Prison is for the poor:

The prison population is increasing astronomically as political pressures result in more and stiffer sentences and stricter parole rules. And criminal techniques learned in prison result in an ever higher rate of return - UP TO 80% !

The previous income of felons was 45% lower than the national median and their crimes are mostly nonviolent - against property, not people.

Income and social background determine who will be imprisoned; middle class offenders can buy a different grade of justice.

The biggest thieves and murderers, of course, head corporations, the government, and the military. When deposed, they reside in seaside villas on rich pensions, or write bestsellers. Few are tried for their crimes.

Slave labor:

Prison jobs offer little but relief from idleness. Prison laborers receive no fringe benefits or compensation for injury on the job. On the street a person earns entitlement to at least a 2 week vacation after a years labor. Not in prison. To one sentenced to 10 years it means a five day week and in some cases a 7 day week for the next 10 years.

We are told of the opportunities of learning a trade (basically on the job training) and earning a Federal Certificate in one's chosen field. What we are not told is that many provinces do not recognize a federal certificate.

The way it is:

Prisons are not contrived to be humane places.

Prison simply isolates and intensifies the bourgeois, supremacist model of power relations.

Prison is the degrading end-product of an outside system of

neglect which fails to provide decent childcare, housing, health care, schooling, social consciousness, employment or cultural enrichment to millions of people. Capitalism then channels much of the rebellion of the poor and deprived back on their own people, in the form of crime, and jails the criminal - double jeopardy for oppression.

The thief who burglarizes the corner gas station must not be allowed to turn his energy into making the assets of Gulf oil available to all the people. He must not be allowed to become a political challenger, an organizer of masses. He must remain isolated, preferably antisocial and dangerous. And he must learn to ACCEPT the system of capitalism, crime, punishment and jails so he can become a model prisoner and perpetuate the cesspool inside and outside reverberates doubly inside prisons, the dumping grounds of a society which cares about profit, not people.

What can be done:

In a sane caring world, crime would plummet as equal distribution of wealth, vast opportunity for useful work, and a real share in decision making give all people access to a full and rewarding life.

But today thousands resort to crime to survive, to feel important, to escape drudgery.

Prison shouldn't be there at all. Radical reform of prisons is crucial, a matter of life and death to prisoners and their families, the proletariat as a whole, and the helpless victims of crime. The entire criminal justice system must be revamped, modernized, and revolutionized.

"Crimes" that do not victimize others - gambling, prostitution, narcotics and alcohol consumption, drunkenness, pornography, self defense, petty welfare and tax violations, etc. - must be expunged from the law books.

Similarly, all anti-labor - anti-picketing, and anti-assembly laws and injunctions, and criminal syndicalist laws must be ruled unconstitutional, as well as censorship.

Radicals, labor unions, political and service organizations, prisoners and concerned individuals need to form a massive coalition to press for all the indicated demands.

1. Community control of prisons - let unionists, civil rights groups, and families of prisoners, not professional bureaucrats, determine policy.
2. Prisoner self-government to allow prisoners a real voice in policy.
3. A citizens review board to hear all complaints, assess violations, award damages and impose fines.
4. Prisoner rights to organize political, labor, religious, cultural, and social units; to have access to the media; to be supplied decent housing, food, health and psychiatric care to compensation for lost property and violations of civil and human rights.
5. End all brutality, racism and sexual oppression in prisons. Fire staff who violate prisoner's rights. ABOLISH Special Handling Units.
6. Let friends and families of prisoners visit frequently and in private.
7. Effective skills training programs for prisoners. Apprenticeships and jobs at prevailing wages, with membership in related unions. Prison should be a productive community for both the prisoner and society.

Humanity cannot survive half-imprisoned and half-free. All the world is a jail under capitalism, but nobody is more impotent, harassed, or despairing than the captives behind bars. The condition of people in prison is the proper concern of the working class, for prison is only the distorted mirror image of the total society.

The following is an excerpt taken from "Instead of Prisons".

"What has been worthwhile in human history - the great achievements of physics and of astronomy, of geographical discovery and of human healing of philosophy and art - has been the work of extremists - of those who believed in the absurd, dared the impossible."

"Remember too, that less than two hundred years ago, slavery still was a fundamental institution, regarded as legitimate by church and state and accepted by the vast majority of people including, perhaps, most slaves."

"Imprisonment is slavery. Like slavery, it has been imposed on a class of people by those on top. Prisons will fall when their foundation is exposed and destroyed by a movement surging from the bottom up."

"For all Practical purposes, imprisonment means the caging of human beings either singularly or in pairs or groups. If there were the slightest scientific proof that the placement of human beings into boxes or cages for any length of time, even overnight had the slightest beneficial effect, perhaps such a system might be justifiable. There is no such proof, consequently, I should think that a massive attack on the constitutionality of the caging of human beings is in order."

"While the public cries out over crime, the figures show a great proportion of that crime is uselessly created by the very institutions that were designed to stop it."

"Justice is no longer even a lofty ideal, it is a vicious pretext by which the beneficiaries of power preserve their self-esteem while oppressing the twice punished. Stripped of that pretext, it is little more than the naked defense of class interest."

"We must destroy the prison, root and branch. That will not solve our problem, but it will be a good beginning. Let us substitute something. Almost anything will be an improvement. It cannot be worse. It cannot be more brutal and more useless."

Lorne Zorian

No new values can be created where a free conflict of ideas is impossible.

Trotsky

LETTER TO PAUL

Hello My Friend:

It is getting very near to Christmas and it would appear that it is going to be a white one. It sure would help to create an atmosphere of Christmas if we were to awake on Christmas morning and be greeted with a fresh clean blanket of snow.

I've been sitting here in my cell thinking about you and reminiscing some of the happy moments we shared. I decided to write you this Christmas letter and let you know what's been happening.

You'll be happy to know that I'm doing well. My present circumstances aren't the best but walls, bars, and razor-wire topped fences aren't the only prisons that exist. My physical surroundings say I'm a prisoner but I know that my spirit is free. Like our friendship, it exists, right? I'm sure that we agree that it exists and so part of me is where that friendship exists. A dimension that defies captivity: It's here with me; it's there with you; it's with JoAnn and all our loved ones and friends. How can all that which is precious and beautiful be held prisoner by anything or anyone? Isn't it great to know that we are free and live within the warm and loving embrace of friendship?

Dan finally got his transfer out west. He's back near his loved ones. I know you'll be happy to hear that news. For awhile, Elmer felt lost without him around but like all friends that are physically parted, the beauty of friendship lives on free and forever beautiful.

Red is still working-out with the weights. His self-discipline serves as an incentive for budding lifters like myself. Duke got charged for refusing to comply with the guards order to bend over after removing all of his clothing when he was returning from visiting with his loved ones. (I'm sure you remember his beautiful wife and daughter.) In disciplinary court the charge was thrown out. Prisoners are not compelled to submit to being humiliated by having to bend over and touch their toes as a blanket procedure to be followed after returning from a visit. It would seem

that they just don't want a man to fully enjoy his visits. They have to taint it one way or another. It was good to see a man stand up for his rights-and win. The day will come when prisoners will have won their rights rather than having their rights converted into privileges.

After you left us-physically speaking that is, you were sincerely missed. I know no-one that spoke anything but good about you. You had earned a great deal of respect and love over the years. It was really evident after your physical departure. So you ask, "Why tell me this now?" Well Paul we both know that your head would have swelled out of shape if you had heard and seen all the neat things your friends had said and did. You were just right the way you were. There were times when it was a joy to see your approaching face then there were times when it was a relief to see your departing back-side. Guess all us humans have that characteristic. Some faces aren't seen enough and some back-sides aren't seen enough either.

As you can see, JoAnn wrote the dedication of this newsletter. She didn't know you very long, but time is only relative. She refers to you as a friend in the same calibre as those of us that have known you for many years. You must have been yourself every time she visited you.

Well Paul, I'm going to sign off now. I just looked at the photo you gave me of yourself this summer. You are as close to me now as you were then. It's been great visiting you in thought. I know you will get this letter as you still live within the minds and hearts of all those who loved you and knew you as a friend. Be sure you give my best regards to any of my friends you may be seeing.

Bye for now Paul.

Love, Peace, Prayers,
& Strength

A friend

SOCIAL GROUP ACTIVITIES CURTAILED

A recent policy change concerning social group activity at Millhaven has seriously hampered programs designed to bring community involvement into the penal system. Both prisoners and community members who have been involved in the various programs find this arbitrary decision not only appalling but also a direct contradiction of what the Solicitor-General's Department maintains is an important element in the programs they are trying to implement.

Press notice after press notice released over the past few years has decried the need for community involvement in the penal system. The Solicitor-General's Dept. has and still does maintain that community involvement is a necessary factor in its rehabilitation scheme. Prisoners need interaction with outside citizens in order to break down the isolation that divorces them from reality. Prisoners agree with that philosophy.

However, organizing community support is not an easy goal to achieve. Finding people in the community who are willing to donate their time and energies toward prison activities is not an easy accomplishment. The prisoners in Millhaven, in conjunction with a very few outsiders have spent a lot of time and effort in organizing programs of that nature. Needless to say, neither the prisoners nor the outside volunteers are very pleased to hear that their efforts may have been in vain. After years of struggling to find people willing to come to prisons to meet with prisoners, we are told that our guest lists must be curtailed. A program instituted by the Odyssey Group must be cut back because Millhaven is a maximum security prison and the number of outside visitors must be severely limited. Not because they are a threat to security but because we must differentiate between prisons.

Prisoners are not very happy with this state of affairs nor are people from the outside. Both are trying to have these restrictions set aside. The following three letters are part of that struggle.

Tommy Smith

17 March, 1980.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Citizens Advisory
Committee for Millhaven Penitentiary

As you may have heard from one of your members, Mr. C. Young, the administration here at Millhaven Penitentiary has informed the Executives of the various social groups that the attendance of citizens from the community at Social and Prisoner's Groups is once again being restricted. From verbal explanations of the administration's position we have been led to understand that this is by the authority of the Regional Director General for Ontario who has been reported as saying on a recent tour "...this place is being run like a medium. Tighten it up." This was stated to management officials in front of a number of prisoners.

Not too many years ago this penitentiary closed completely to the public. We did not have members of the community attending groups. In these few years we have built up a relationship with the surrounding community which, while perhaps not friendly, is one of at least tolerance which we have been able to convert into concern for the lot of prisoners.

Commissioner's Directive No. 230 states:

- 230 2(a) Community orientation programmes shall be created and developed to broaden contacts between inmates and society, by establishing relationships which will assist through social exchange and integration by volunteer programmes of social and cultural activities.
- 2(b) This will be achieved by the involvement of suitable volunteers in institutional programmes and by the appointment of Citizen Advisory Committees at all institutions.

For the last ten or so years the various administrations have been stating that they welcome and encourage citizen participation in the rehabilitation programs of prisoners.

Now that we have public involvement in this prison they have stated that there must be a reduction in the amount of outside members attending the groups.

Standing Order No. 843 (December 1, 1975)

843 2(a) We accept, with pleasure, citizen participation in our social group activities for the purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of inmates. However, a Maximum Security Institution must take certain precautions to assure proper functioning of social activities programmes and allow for continued citizen participation.

Standing Order No. 842 (December 1, 1975)*

842 3(e) A maximum of six outside guests shall be allowed per group meeting. On special occasions the limit on the outside number of guests may be exceeded with the approval of the Director.

As you can see from the date on the above, these standing orders were issued four years ago. The limit on the number of guests permitted in 1975, may have been appropriate, but it is definitely not appropriate now. Recently the Odyssey Group initiated a program in which we bring groups of University students (Law, Sociology, Criminology, etc.) into our group and, in essence, provide them with a living textbook on prisons. A number of members of the group took the same course as these students are presently doing in order to acquaint ourselves with the content and terminology. We have so far brought in two groups of students and have yet to receive any negative feedback either from the administration, Queens University, or the students themselves. A number who have attended have returned on their own time as prospective members of our group in order to continue, as one stated to us, their education in regard to the penal system in Canada. What about the rest of them who may want to come back? Must we deny them this access to an experience that may enrich their education?

When the number of students was discussed with the administration, thirty-one names were submitted for clearance. They agreed to allowing us to start with eight to ten and increase the number as more names are submitted. They also agreed that our regular guests would still be able to attend. Last week an attempt was made at cutting the number of students from eight to five. The students themselves refused to come in. This situation necessitated us advising our guests not to come in for the next two weeks so that we may get through all of the names submitted before they leave on their Easter break.

And the administration either in here or in Regional has no justification. On one hand they state that they "... accept, with pleasure, citizen participation..." and on the other hand are refuting this with their actions.

We are asking you, the Citizen Advisory Committee, to intercede, not only on behalf of the prisoners, but for the people in the surrounding communities who have shown an interest in aiding in the rehabilitation of prisoners, but have been rebuffed by the very people who are supposed to be responsible for this rehabilitation. It is felt that this subject is definitely in your mandate and therefore, on behalf of the Odyssey Group and our outside members, and as attested to by the signature of the Chairman of the Inmate Committee, on behalf of the prisoners in the penitentiary, we are asking you to attempt to advise the powers that be on the senselessness of these actions and the possible retardation of existing and future programs in this institution.

Thanking you for your time and consideration, we are...

Sincerely yours,

J. R. Boisclair
Secretary-Odyssey Group

Ron VanBree
Chairman-Odyssey Group

Larry Sauve
Chairman- Inmate Committee

Faculty of Law
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario.

Mr. Ryan
Warden

Dear Mr. Ryan:

As outside members of the Odyssey Group of Millhaven Institution we are concerned about the fact that we were refused permission to attend a regularly scheduled meeting of the Odyssey Group to be held March 18, 1980.

In speaking to Head of Social Development at Millhaven Institution Ms. Appleby was informed that the policy respecting outsider attendance at meetings of the Odyssey Group had been changed. It is our understanding that arrangements had been made so that students in Professor Laureen Snyder's Sociology of Penal Systems course at Queen's University were to attend certain meetings of the Odyssey Group. It was, also, our understanding that this arrangement would in no way effect the participation of the outside members of the group. However, in her conversation with the Head of Social Development Ms. Appleby was informed that as a result of the policy change a maximum number of outsiders would be permitted to attend at any one time. This required the Odyssey Group to choose between regular outside Odyssey members and the Sociology students.

On two occasions in the past, eight to ten Sociology students in addition to the regular outside members were present at the same meeting. In our opinion, the inclusion of both the outside members of the group and the students proved to be valuable for all concerned. One of the purposes of the student attendance is to expose the students to a regular meeting of the group as an example of both community involvement in institutional programmes and community/prisoner interactions. The value of the participation of community members at such a meeting extends beyond the actual meeting itself. At subsequent meetings the community members are able to provide feedback so that the prisoners may improve

their programme for future student groups.

We would like to inquire as to why there has been this policy change considering that on the two previous occasions when students attended along with the regular members the programme worked out very well. Perhaps this policy is merely a short term measure; however, if so this has not been made clear to us. If this is meant to be a long term policy we respectfully request that you reconsider in light of the factors discussed above.

We would appreciate it if you would advise us as to your view of this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly

Shelly Appleby
Robert Bigelow
Charlene Zeagman

It only makes sense if you remember one thing: The purpose of jail is to take away your self respect - the system assaults you from the moment you enter.

Sean O'Flynn

Whoever lays a hand on me to govern me is a usurper and a tyrant, Government of man by man is slavery.

Pierre Proudhon

ANOTHER WEIGH
22 KENSINGTON PLACE
TORONTO

March 20th 1980.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Censored.....
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.....censored.

Apart from its dangers, this policy cuts back on positive projects within the surrounding community - which have taken patience & efforts by volunteers & prisoners to set up. A case in point is the Queen's Univ. Sociology of Penal Systems course whose students are attending Odyssey group meetings on Tuesdays, this affords potential lawyers and judges opportunity to meet and see the type of conditions and people that they will later be asked to put away. Because of the new policy many of these students and outside guests (to all social groups at Millhaven) are being trimmed. Censored
.....
.....Censored.

Government policy papers outline an ideal of community/Justice system cooperation that this bureaucratic tightening flies straight in the face of: "Federal and Provincial Corrections and the private sector must be totally committed to collaborating & maintaining a ballance of public sector and community involvement & input into correctional administration." And, "that all governments (federal, provincial, municipal, and territorial) adopt a policy of actively encouraging, supporting and enabling responsibility of citizens and allied non govt organizations in the Criminal Justice field, to the fullest extent possible, in cooperation with govt service." (Sol-General Dept.)

'Maintaining the ballance' cannot happen when the govt. control centres (Regional & Ottawa), so blindly load the

scales against the prisoners & society's health.

This rehash of 'orderliness' policy is already affecting ongoing programs and the business as usual of inside social groups. This will only spark new problems and a more dangerous environment for the people inside. We are concerned that the (censored) of changing administrative attitudes (the Warden has just changed) can so directly endanger human welfare & lives, and we hope to see development rather than suppression of prisoner initiated programs and responsibility.

Yours

antony LORRAINE

ANOTHER WEIGH Community imprisonment
Co-op.

Editor's note.

Standing Order No. 842 has been reissued on (Sept. 24, 1979)

The Millhaven Administration objects to the three preceding letters as not being factual. They feel that letting the students and the regular members into the institution at the same time was a special consideration and was not meant to be an ongoing thing.

.....

People who want to guide and influence government policy are wasting their time dealing with Members of Parliament, Senators, and usually even Ministers.

If you want results - rather than just the satisfaction of talking to the prominent - you deal with us.

A senior civil servant

When people find the society unacceptable and there is no success in affecting change within the existing structure then revolution is a viable option.

Pierre Trudeau

PERSONAL EVALUATION

Since Jan. 1967 I have been incarcerated in Federal prisons for 11 years and 6 months, that's a combination of 29 months, from 1967 Jan., to June 1969 and, 9 years from Sept. 1970 until now, Sept. 1979. In fact, in that time I have seen many fellows, (Murderers and Theives as they are by society referred to) come and go and, come back again. The majority of these guys have gone out with thoughts that they will never again return to prison. Knowing some of these fellows very well, has permitted me to experience their sincerity and hopes for a better life than what they have known behind bars. Under the new Mandatory Parole System, just about every man has to serve his "good-time" on the street. It is this parole that seems to be one of the catalyst for their return. I've been told by these fellows, that return again, that it's like living with a constant threat over your head. It allows your Parole Officer and Police Officers to intimidate, and harrass the parolee. One friend had his parole revoked of 7 years taken away because of an impaired driving charge.

Last year the Parole Act was changed. The time served on the street while on parole now is credited. It was not always this way. Prior to the change, the time served on parole did not count and if you were returned to prison you had to serve that time all over again in prison as if you were never released. When the law changed it wasn't made retroactive. So what we have is those that returned prior to the law change have to redo all their parole time in prison. The fact that tho' both guys were out on parole together at the same time, one has to redo his parole time and the other person doesn't have to, and the difference may only be one day which seperated their return. Both may have served a number of years on the street while on parole, but, one is accredited for his parole time, yet the other not.

In August of 1969, the Parole Board changed its policy, and instituted this Mandatory Parole. It was to be

enforced on everyone sentenced after its effective date of implementation, but, if a person was out on parole and returned to prison with an additional sentence then all the good-time from his previous sentence was included under the mandatory supervision law. Here's where the law was definitely to the detriment of a person, and it was enacted retroactively. THIS IS NOT JUSTICE---IT IS TYRANNY.

During these years of incarceration I have witnessed many changes, been subject to the changing moods of society and the law. I can remember back to 1969 when visiting was permitted only for 1-one hour per month in all but minimum security camps. Now it is 6-to-7 hours per week in maximum security prisons and up to 10 hours per week in medium security prisons. We are now issued free tooth-paste, and we can seal our letters to Members of Parliament.. but, somehow the contents of these sealed letters sometimes filter back to the prison authorities and administrators. There have been some positive changes. But the over-all picture hasn't changed. In fact, I would say it is worse now than it was ten years ago. You may ask how this can be what with the Temporary Absence Program still in existence (barely but still). Well after the Kingston Penitentiary Riot in the spring of 1971, the emphasis was to shift from punishment to rehabilitation. Society was blitzed with the advantages it would be to the free and responsible society if men were released as usual and productive citizens. Society bought it...Cons bought it... why I'm not sure. I can only speak for myself, I took it to mean that cons would be shown respect. First of all respect for their rights as people. I thought that the prison administrators had finally realized that they would have to set the example of what integrity and honesty were all about. I remember thinking how profound it all was. Rather than enforcing rules and regulations just because they were there, I thought that some natural justice and common sense would in fact prevail. How different it would be to be conditioned and programmed to live in a

free and responsible society. The circus type of programs would disappear, and no longer would prisoners have to prostitute their principles, values and integrity to play the game. I thought that finally, they have come to know that oppression only breeds resistance. I guess I actually believed that the injustices would cease. Well like I said, I actually thought that this punitive community of deprivation would change as the emphasis was shifted to the state of rehabilitation. What has happened tho' is a real nightmare. They never did rehabilitate their oppressive attitudes. Society was conned into believing that there was a rehabilitation atmosphere in prisons, after all the cost of keeping a convict jumped from around \$17.000 a year in 1971, to \$40.000 a year in 1978. For the convict this meant free toothpaste, an increase to 4 towels a week instead of two, 6 pairs of sox a week instead of two pairs. (increase was in fact implimented in JUNE 1979.). We are allowed to buy more articles with our trust fund monies, (monies earned for prison work) such as sweat suits, and gym shoes....OH! lets not forget we are permitted to wear our own jewelry, our personal effects can total up to \$500.00 in value, whether or not you are imprisoned for one year or fifty years...Now the nightmare really hits you when you hear the emphasis is being changed back to punishment because rehabilitation didn't work. Before at least there was hope that things would change. What in essence did change, is a few terminologies...Penitentiary changed to institution, convicts or prisoners to inmates, guards to staff, the Hole to Environmental Control Area, and some prisons were painted fancy bright colours. Most important of all; we have a new monster...it is called S.H.U.----- Special Handling Units. A nightmare and a horror combined. How such a place can exist in any country is further proof of how the structure of our justice system belies every concept of its justice. The worst pain any country can inflict upon its people is the pain of shattered faith, loss of hope and slow death. I no longer have any faith in a justice system that has lost sight and appreciation of natural justice.

There is a bright side, and it's that side I have turned to with my attention and support. Born from this retarded concept of rehabilitation that has proved to be a red herring was the fight within men for prisoner's rights. No longer are we fooled by terminology. We are slowly beginning to recognize the difference between rights and privileges. We are also begging to see the strength of this distorted justice system lies in our weaknesses. They create and exploit our weaknesses. When we are able to tell them to keep their poisoned carrots as they are just placebos which leave a bad taste in the pits of our manhood, then we have found their achille's heel.

Oppression and tyranny have ruled supreme, Oppression breeds resistance and tyranny breeds its own downfall.

Prisoners are a very inexpensive commodity of a society that exploits human suffering by means of coercive force, also supporting the myth that everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. A commodity doing life imprisonment on the installment plan, living on hopes for changes and... dying of starvation waiting.

Ronnie Van Bree

Working-class consciousness cannot be genuinely political consciousness unless workers are trained to respond to all cases of tyranny, oppression, violence and abuse, no matter what class is affected.

Lenin

If being in prison is actually paying a debt to society, then I want to start a class action against society for usury. Their interest rate is far too high.

PRISON REFORM AND JUSTICE

I have recently been transferred from Kent, B.C. to what I describe as present and most notorious warehouse, Millhaven Penitentiary. Why am I hear I ask myself, simple like hundreds before me, I asked a few basic questions. I became an embarrassment to the penitentiary system, was labelled a trouble maker, an instigator, prison agitator, but all I did was ask what people have been asking all along. Where is this thing they call prison reform?

There are people in prison with special problems, physical, emotional, and mental. We are human, just because they have taken our freedom, doesn't reduce our rights as people. I am sure if I were to approach a doctor on the outside and explain to him my problem and after examination he found there was a cure or some treatment could be prescribed, it would be given. Well why in hell isn't something done in here? Where there is a need to be fulfilled.

They spend thousands of dollars here per year to keep us here. Then why don't they spend the money on some feasible and workable program to get us back on our feet and get started on the right alternative?

I believe all these talks that go on about rehabilitation and I read where rehabilitation means to return to one's former state. Well let me tell you if that's the case, they are coming close to success. I believe that if I were to reform it would have to be a conscious effort on my part.

I ask what does a penitentiary have to offer in terms of reform, very little if any. Sure they teach you school, welding, carpentry, upholstering, and other minimal work skills, but let me tell you, you as an employer, would you honestly hire one, no I don't think so. Yet you scream bloody murder about the taxes you pay, you scream about places like Millhaven, B.C. Pen, Archambault, but by your same ambiguous attitudes and lax judgement you keep these places going.

Half of the people in society say, well what can we do,

what's the alternative? Well I am sure if you people can spend thousands of dollars to keep me for X number of years, unless you want to keep me for X number of years in the future, as well as you have in the past, well you had better start trying to find a working solution to the problem. I wish I had the answer. Do you?

Kenneth Collison

If you are expecting anything that profound from me, forget it. If I had to take an I.Q. test to enter this prison, I wouldn't have made it. Chasing that cruiser for six blocks would have been for nothing.

I'm only writing this because I'm lonely. When I'm lonely, I write to myself. Some people talk to themselves when they're lonely. I write to myself. It's not because I'm a non-conformist, it's because I don't know any better. Besides that, I never find it necessary to repeat myself. Well almost never.

Actually, I just wanted you to know that I don't like prison. Some people do. In fact, there are quite a few people that do. They are my keepers. They make a lot of money just to ensure that I'm kept unhappy. Kind of a queer situation if you ask me.

But then, most things in this world are queer. In fact, I cannot think of one logical reason why I should do one damned thing. Days turn into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years. When enough years go by, if I'm fortunate enough to live that long, I'll leave here. Nothing I can do will change that. So why do anything?

Should I develop my brain? what for? When I leave here, everything will be changed anyway and I still wont know anything. Should I develop my muscles? What for? When I leave here, I'll be too old to work anyway. I guess you might say that anything I do is an exercise in futility.

MILLHAVENITUS

There is a very dangerous disease pervading this prison that, for lack of a better term, has been termed Millhavenitus. It has various symptoms, but is sometimes very difficult to detect in its early stages. However, it is very real just the same. To my knowledge, there is no known cure for it.

Unlike most diseases, it does not attack the body directly, although it does cause the body to deteriorate as time goes on. Mostly, it is a spiritual disease. It is a cancerous growth that attacks both the spiritual and psychological aspect of man.

For those familiar with the Greek Goddess Psyche, the malady is very easily understood. Psyche, the Goddess from whom we get most of our modern psychological terms, meant much more than just the psychological. She was the Goddess of the mind and soul. When she looked upon you favourably, everything was in harmony. There were no diseases of the mind and the spiritual was always on a high plane. Man was fulfilled.

Millhavenitus is the direct contradiction of Psyche. It is a state of disharmony. It first eats away at the spirit so that life no longer has any meaning. Living itself becomes an exercise in futility. Psychologists and psychiatrists call it a state of depression. They are wrong. Millhavenitus is a much more subtle disease than that. To be depressed, life must have meaning. A terrible feeling of unfulfilled dreams or desires are its chief symptoms, or causes. Millhavenitus is the destruction of all dreams or desires so that a state of depression is impossible. What Millhavenitus is, is a dead or dying soul.

When you see a prisoner walking down the halls of Millhaven with absolutely no purpose, Millhavenitus has a grip on him. A grip that, so long as he is in Millhaven, can never be extinguished. For all intents and purposes, he has become a walking zombie.

Unfortunately, the attack on the spirit, or soul if you prefer, is very difficult to detect immediately. That is not the case when it attacks the psychological. Many symptoms are

easily detected when the disease reaches that stage.

When Millhavenitus attacks the psychological, man shows various symptoms that are usually diagnosed as neurosis or psychosis. The victim is seen talking to himself, withdrawing from his environment, destroying property, or in extreme cases, mutilating himself. These are, of course, symptoms that are also common among people in the society at large. However, the victims can be treated out there with some measure of success. A change in his environment erases the causes. They cannot be treated at Millhaven because Millhaven is the cause..

In the past, men suffering from Millhavenitus were taken out of the prison and placed in a psychiatric ward at Kingston. However, that treatment also proved itself to be an exercise in futility. People who did show improvement after treatment were returned to Millhaven where they soon began to regress. Sometimes to a worse state than when they had received the treatment. Millhaven was proven to be the cause.

Men imprisoned at Millhaven for long periods of time become victims of Millhavenitus because it attacks when the individual no longer has any hope. The carrots the authorities have dangled in front of him for so many years no longer has any meaning. The promise of better days to come has never materialized. His spirit is dead. He cannot concentrate on any meaningful self-help because he knows it will lead to nothing.

Although this disease has been termed Millhavenitus, it is certainly not confined to Millhaven alone. It is raging throughout the world wherever the people in power practice socio-psychological genocide. Although very few people appear to care, the victim of Millhavenitus has become a zombie not capable of any worthwhile endeavor.

The really sad part of it all is that Millhavenitus is exactly what the authorities have planned for every prisoner.

Tommy Smith

EXPERIENCE NO. 245

"Hey, Psst! Come here for a sec," growled a voice. Peering skeptically into the dim recesses of the cell, I cautiously stepped into his domain. "What's the problem?" I whispered.

"No problem, I just wanted to show you something I invented." "Invented" I asked. "Ya., invented. I was supposed to go over to the bug ward about six months ago but they got me mixed up with some other sucker and sent him instead. Anyhow, I got tired of waiting so I became an inventor. And today I did it!!! I invented a tropical plant." (Naturally, a silence filled the air for 37½ seconds--- awkwardly too, I might add.) Like it or not, I realized I was going to hear the story, so asked "Tropical Plant? This isn't the tropics."

"Look Mac, everything in this joint is controlled: Movement, time, training, psychiatric treatment - everything, including temperatures. With controlled temperatures, you can raise tropical plants.!"

"Okay, where is it?" I mumbled. "Over there on the desk." he stated with scientific conviction blazing out of his eyeballs. "And that's the good part - it's a tropical HIDISCODARI and I made it invisible.!!!"

With that, I made a mad dash for the door. After 50 quickly paced steps, I slowed, realizing "In this joint it's just another experience....."

Larry Harvey

Being unable to make what is just strong, we have made what is strong just.

Pascal

It is criminal to teach a man not to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks.

Malcolm X

ON CONJUGAL VISITS

The subject of conjugal visits being instituted in Federal Penitentiaries in Canada has been brought up and spoken about in great detail by many persons in as well as outside prisons for many years; though nothing conclusive has been established towards its eventual implementation.

To the average person on the outside the mere thought of a woman entering prison to have sex with a prisoner seems to conjure up an image of thought closely akin to an orgy. This is a fallacy and certainly not out intention as prisoners at all. Our main concern is that we be permitted to execute a normal human function and thereby doing so maintain our relationship(s) with our loved ones while we "pay our debt to society."

Years ago it was suggested that married men be allowed the company of their wives and that those not legally married invite girlfriends. While the idea of wives visiting husbands was considered feasible, the thought of girlfriends was immediately vetoed as being non-rehabilitative.

We are incarcerated because certain laws were established by society and we broke those laws; but in locking us away in an environment totally different than the norm of society only shows that society itself is only defeating its own purpose.

Female companionship is a need that we obviously are without. And for a married man to go years without contact with his wife can only lead to an eventual break-up of an otherwise together relationship. Depriving prisoners of conjugal visits is punishment to the prisoner but what of their wives and children; must they suffer also?

How many wives can endure the absence of a normal human reaction for very long? Not many I'm afraid? For richer, for poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, until death do us part. Well we are not yet dead but as long as these barbaric laws still exist our memories and family relationships slowly die year by year.

Instituting conjugal visits within Canada's Penitentiaries would not only help a lot of families remain intact but

would also help to lower the recidivism rate which is constantly rising. In having such a program prisoners would have something to look forward to, and with the warmth of those few people who still maintain a semblance of love for them, could return to society with a need of being wanted.

Please let Parliament know your concerns, whether they be pro or con, and remember that the governmental bodies enforce existing laws but it is you the public who can implement them by speaking (writing) and thereby letting your point of view be known..... All we as prisoners can do is hope.

R. Camphuag

Editors note: Rod was involuntarily transferred to Archambault Prison in Quebec.

When a revolution succeeds, the gates of the prison are opened and the prisoners, victims of the regime that has just fallen, go free; literally on their heels, the gates close on new prisoners, victims of the regime that has just been set up.

Menachem Begin

Nothing can be added to the pure light of reason which does not in some way obscure it.

Descartes

Any fool can make a rule and every fool will follow it.

Ron Van Bree

THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW ? ? ?

A while ago I submitted a grievance concerning a guard telling me to perform a physically impossible unnatural sexual act upon myself. This Grievance went through the proper channels and I believe the Grievance Board did all in their power to bring this to the attention of the proper authorities and have something done about it. I sincerely thank them for their efforts. Yet what was done? It sure couldn't have been much as this same guard told me to perform this identical physically impossible, unnatural sexual act upon myself again. Now I am worried that he might charge me with refusing to obey a Direct Order. He seems to have an obsession with that certain phrase.

Anyway, to get to the point. It seems to me that it works this way. When a prisoner does something which is against the rules or regulations (I never could tell the difference) he is charged with an offence. However, if it is a guard who neglects to comply with a regulation, he has just made a mistake, is forgetful, or perhaps even more appropriate, absent-minded. Is he charged with an offense? Does he spend thirty days in the hole? Does he lose earned remission? Maybe he gets a caution slip. Or could it be that he is placed "off privileges" for a couple of weeks? The answer to these questions is obviously, NO.

The Warden has been asked on a number of occasions what disciplinary powers he has over the guards in this prison. As of August this year he has been given the power to fire them. As yet has he exercised this power? Not that I know of. In 1977, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on prisons recommended that a number of guards be removed from duties which gave them access to prisoners, i.e. that they be placed on perimeter security in this or some other prison. The reason for this is that some guards have continually provoked and aggravated the prisoners. When asked why once again these men are working where they can harass prisoners and are doing so, the Warden replied that the contract with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (P.S.A.C.) states that all guards in the prison must be rotated through each post. "Besides" stated another official, "people change."

This must be another revolutionary policy if it is the view held by the administration. After all, I always thought that this is what people are sent to jail for; change. See how many passes and paroles were made out of Millhaven in 1978? Zero. Please excuse me. I don't have the figures, but there were a number of mandatory paroles (that's where you earn time for good behaviour and have to do it anyway on the street). And would you believe that even I made a number of passes? Well it's true. I got to go to court and to the street hospital. Mind you I was in handcuffs and shackles and had at least three guards with me at all times, with an Ontario Provincial Police car escorting the vehicle. So when you hear about all the paroles and passes made out of Millhaven, remember Mandatory Paroles, and courts, and hospitals, because that's about it. And please don't talk to me about "HUMAN RIGHTS" in Canada's prisons cause there just ain't no such animal.

J.R. Boisclair

It is the characteristic of privilege and of every privileged position to kill the mind and heart of men. The privileged man, whether politically or economically, is a man depraved in mind and heart.

Bakunin

Freedom of speech only means that you are free to agree with the power structure. All other speech is considered conspiracy. People have spent years in prison for conspiracy. Others have been executed.

Total anarchy is much preferable to the slightest oppression. All governments in the world today are oppressive.

DO YOU SAY YES TO DISCRETIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT?

On Saturday November 17, 1979, there was a sports banquet held in the gymnasium at Millhaven. The prisoners that had participated in sports activity were permitted to invite one guest from their approved visiting list. The large majority are wives and girlfriends. It would be a beautiful day if such an expression can be used to compare such a day with the remaining 364 days, if the day could end in fulfillment of everyone's expectations that were anticipated. But such a day is denied, as the day is marred and tainted when it is accentuated by the strip searches of selected guests.

It wasn't always that way when loved-ones or friends attended special functions. I can remember when our loved ones and friends attended functions back in 1972 and part of 1973, here in Millhaven. Body searches of guests wasn't heard of. There was open visiting during a 14-16 month period during the same years. I cannot recall one incident of a guest being skin searched. Our guests were allowed to carry in their wallets and purses. Guests coming into social functions and open visiting today are required to leave everything in their car or in the lockers provided for that purpose, cigarettes, matches or a lighter are not even permitted under present regulations.

I have been incarcerated since September of 1970, and since that date I have witnessed many changes in the penal system. Some would say that there has been some prison reform, that we have more privileges now. i.e. -social functions or permitted open visits in maximum security penitentiaries prior to 1971. Looking at it from that point of view, one would have to agree, but what about the many loved-ones that have arrived before the waiting prisoner - crying and trembling from fear and humiliation because they were body searched upon entering the prison. I've seen and felt the effects of such activity. In Joyceville Penitentiary (medium security) my three nieces were body searched when they visited me for the first time since I was incarcerated. Two were fifteen years of age, and the other niece was nineteen. Raised by parents with no criminal record in the country where they seldom encounter -- peace officers. They were very frightened and humiliated by the experience.

My girl friend, a school teacher for fifteen years for the separate school board, has been body searched twice.

There has been a price to pay for the privileges that are granted. The bulk of the price being paid by the family, loved-ones, and friends of prisoners. What is their crime? Why are they being punished? It's justified on security grounds, reason being that someone, somewhere took advantage of a situation in order to smuggle in contraband and in order to prevent a reoccurrence there is a national step-up of security measures. Broad powers are given to administrative personnel, such as the legal authority to authorize a skin search if there is felt to be reasonable and probable grounds that the visitor "is" in possession of concealed contraband. Not that the visitor "may" be in possession of concealed contraband based on reasonable and probable grounds. At what point does legal authority become abuse of power? What is the ratio of guests found in possession of contraband to those searched who are not in possession of contraband? I'd say it has to be at least 100-1 are found not to be carrying contraband. When those in authority are wrong there is no form of accountability for their mistakes. Their mistakes do result in the worst crime of all as their victims are terrified and humiliated. Their freedom and personal dignity have been raped leaving deep emotional and mental scars. There are prisoners in jail serving years of their life for crimes that resulted in no emotional, mental, or physical scars and we are viewed as the bad guys.

10 years ago the security perimeter of Joyceville Penitentiary consisted of an ordinary fence. Now at the cost of millions of dollars to the tax-payer it has a double razor-wire topped fence and a number of gun towers. Escapes prior to fences and gun towers consisted of prisoners walking away from time to time. Now that there are fences gun towers and more patrols by more staff, the escapes still go on, the last one with the aid of armed assistance. It would be interesting to compare the number of escapes and the seriousness of those escapes compared to the number of and seriousness of escapes before and after the fences, gun towers, and additional staff. A bargain is only a bargain if you get what you think you are paying for.

It's all justified because someone, somewhere, somehow abused a privilege - resulting in mass punishment. Not only are you punished for your own mistakes, you are punished for the mistakes of others, and the punishment falls on the innocent more than it does on the guilty.

This is just not characteristic of prisons. Prisons are only a reflection of the society. The history of prison-life has always, since the first prison, been a reflection of the society of the country at the time. I may be released into Canadian society within the next year, so lately I have been paying more attention to the world I must soon live in. What I have seen verifies the supported theory that prisons only reflect the society of the country.

On Saturday (November 17th, 1979) afternoon I watched the last part of the program 30 Minutes. It was about a massive drug raid on a high school in Indiana, involving hundreds of students. Lockers, vehicles, and some students were searched. I think it was 17 charges that resulted from the raid, one was for two marijuana seeds found on the floorboards of a car in the school parking lot. Does the ratio of innocent to guilty justify the searching of property and persons? At what ratio would you consider use of power becoming abuse of power? Of course this incident happened south of the Canadian Border, in a country that protects its citizens from abuse by constitution. What protection do Canadian Citizens have?

I read about "police wrongdoings," "illegal wire-tapping, opening of personal mail," to mention a couple, and what is the proposed solution to prevent the breaking of the law by law enforcement officers??? Legalized wire-tapping and mail opening as proposed legislation. It seems like supporters of law enforcement are always saying how dangerous the work is of law enforcement officers. Yet when legislation is passed regarding the wearing of seat-belts to insure greater safety for occupants of vehicles, the law enforcement officers are excluded. Why? Isn't their safety just as important as any other occupant of a vehicle?

In a large Canadian City, police officers working undercover made up "shopping lists" of items they would purchase as a fence for stolen property. Is that crime prevention or crime promotion? Who would be responsible if a home-owner

was injured during the fulfillment of the 'shopping list.'

Drugs are bought and sold by undercover law enforcement officers. An action justified by the many arrests and charges being laid against drug traffickers, which result in costly court trials, lengthy and expensive prison terms. Lengthy for the convicted felon and expensive to the taxpayer. Another result is the added risk factor in being apprehended so the price of drugs increase, promising greater profit and incentive to get involved in such criminal activity. Making gold speculations seem like penny-ante game in comparison. If those buying drugs need more money they sometimes have to steal more. Is this crime preventing or crime promoting? Who benefits? It certainly creates a great deal of employment for law enforcement officers and prison and parole staff.

What have we got other than a wild guess to prove that laws prevent more crime than it causes. If crime were legalized such as they have been when violated by law enforcement officers there'd be no need for their employment or of prisons as there would be no criminals, everything would be legal,- ridiculous you say/// What I find ridiculous is broad sweeping powers by law enforcement agencies, approved legislation under the assumption that these powers will be used only for the purpose of fighting and preventing crime,- such as legal wire-tapping of "suspected" individuals based on "reasonable and probable grounds", Legalized mail-opening as a crime - fighting legislated power, again based on "reasonable and probable grounds." Haven't we seen how these broad powers have been abused? Haven't we all seen innocent people being scared because of such powers? What is the ratio of innocent people being subjected to frightening and humiliating experiences compared to those found guilty of violating the law? If a complete body of a high school can be subjected to property and personal search and justified by a few charges, then you can be pretty certain that more telephones and more mail will be listened to and opened then is needed to combat crime. Who will police the police in order to insure that innocent persons do not suffer?

As the law enforcement agencies become more oppressive the

closer our society comes to being a police-state. In a police-state, the gun control laws are very strict. The state needs to know how many guns are in the hands of the people and who has them just in case they are forced to seize all guns to keep the have-nots from armed rebellion when they realize the gap between them and the 'haves' has reached an impassable distance and they begin to realize the absence of rights they once had as humans and citizens.

Is big brother watching you, listening to you, reading your mail??? He is watching me, and reading my mail. My society is only a reflection of your society. I have seen more innocent people suffer because of poor discretion and abuse of power by those in position of authority than guilty people. Most people I have met have admitted to breaking the law at some time in the past, as a young boy or girl or as a young adult. Most say it could be them in jail if all their past activities were known. If such is the majority why not send everyone to prison for a couple of years? After all it would probably be the majority that are being justifiably punished. There'd certainly be less innocent people punished under the law then there are now being punished by a law that is supposedly to insure that no innocent people will suffer for the actions of a few that break the law.

When you say yes to laws designed for discretionary enforcement you have agreed to your freedom being severely retarded as only in a police-state are police permitted to select the laws they choose to enforce and on whom the laws are enforced. What is legal becomes necessary.

Ron Van Bree

Most laws passed by most governments are designed to keep them in power. Wire-tapping and mail-opening laws are an example. What the Nixon Republicans went to jail for in the United States, the Canadian demigods have made legal. Either Trudeau is much sharper than Nixon, or the people in Canada are a lot less swift than those in the United States.

" And it goes on and on....."

"Now get in that cell and shut up," exclaimed a very small brown uniform in a loud, big voice. "Shut-up?" queried the prisoner in the green wrinkled uniform,—"I never said anything."

"Oh, so your going to start again are you?" demanded the same brown uniform. Now being a man of much travel and experience, the green uniform dummied up. He'd been at that point before - you know, where common sense and logic collide head on. So, he shuffled into the cell and the lock was snapped with an authoritative twist.

"Hey man, what did you get locked up for?" How many days did ya get?" asked green #2, somewhere down the row of concrete incubators in E.C.A.. "I don't know replied the dazed #1 green.

"Oh come on man" snapped #2, "Everyone knows what their doing down here. They get pinched, charged with one of the thousand possible variables at the disposal of the Security Division and then sentenced. Nothing drawn out about the process. Lightning fast snap decisions made by the disciplinarian and corrective board. Totally unprejudiced-- no matter what race, color or creed, we all get the axe."

"I haven't been charged or sentenced" came a baffled answer from #1.

"Well, being that we've got lots of time, tell me about it and maybe I can figure it out" sighed #2 green.

Well, jueez, where do I start, Guess it all started at the interview.....

"Come in and have a seat, Mr. Uniform" smiled a confident appearing interviewer. But he didn't fool anyone. It was observed he quite casually slid his pad over to the left side of his desk. And naturally having to take notes, he had to move a little further toward the left to get to the pad. Just a little closer to that funny looking red button

sticking out of the wall.

And somehow (by some mystic reasoning) in the deep recesses of your grey matter, you just know that that re button does not connect to a fire dept. somewhere. Oh well, it's a friendly encounter so you let on you didn't notice the move.

"Now what can I do for you?" asked the interviewer. "Do for me?" asked the green uniform - "Nothing. I didn't ask to see you. You called me up here."

Turning a slight tone of a redish hue, the interviewer quickly recovered -- as he was trained to do. (Rule No. 247 - "never let the prisoner see a break in your composure." Good rule that. Teaches one how to make lightning snap decisions, ---lie. But, very carefully).

"Oh yes, after a quick glance I see we had you on the wrong list. Typographical error. You see, we have two carefully compiled lists- those who want to see and those we want to see. We're very scientific around here," mentioned the viewer. "Yes, I've noticed your progressive around here" said the green uniform - somewhat carefully. "Well, I'm sorry about that typographical error that caused us to cut short the visit with your wife. However, it was nice seeing you and if you need my services, just drop in a interview request form. Form No. CPS-F103. That's the fastest form here.

"Oh drat, what a system" mumbled the bug eyed prisoner.

"What did you say?" snapped the now alert interrogator. (Rule No. 305- when the situation deems necessary, switch from the role of interviewer to interrogator--to maintain the authoritative position."

"Oh, I foolishly made a remark about the system. Lost my head for a second. Must be my nerves," breathed the now cautious green uniform.

"Repeat exactly what you said," loudly demanded the interrogator. "Just drat.." ---"Good God, did you say Drat?"

interrupted the stunned civil servant. He had completely blown it all. He was neither a viewer or a gator in his presently dazed state.

"Are you involved in politics" whispered the viewgator, - his hand creeping nearer to that red button.

"Drat is a communist term!" Who have you been getting involved with - the Committee, the Odyssey Group - you know, those questionable uniforms. Trying to change our system. Improving living conditions. Human Rights. Why their asking to be treated like human beings. Those are terrible demands."

"And uniform #2, you know what. Like a fool, I admitted I once talked to a committee member. And BAM - he pushed that damned red button just because I nodded my head yes."

"Wow," breathed green #2, your down here on a political beef! That's serious man."

And it goes on and on.....

"So smile and have a nice day for a change, if its possible in here. And remember, when we smile it makes "them" wonder what we've been up to." (Our rule No. 141 or 3, depending.)

Larry Harvey

Behind a carefully controlled and manipulated press, our economic overlords have refurbished the fading illusions of individual independence and democratic freedom while they consolidated the control which completed the negation of these Ideals.

C.C.F.
Social Planning for Canada

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN PENITENTIARIES ?

We all as people of this nation know that there is such a thing as Human Justice and Human Rights. But, what happens when you or I enter a Canadian Penitentiary? Human Rights as we used to understand them fail to exist any longer. A simple thing like compassion for others and a little understanding especially for those people that have special problems, emotional, mental. Physical handicapped people that normally have enough problems adjusting to and in society, never mind the environment he or she will have to adjust to in a penitentiary.

As a prisoner here at Millhaven, I feel that we probably have a heavier burden to bear because when the average citizen thinks of this place they naturally associate it with housing the most dangerous and violent offenders in Canada, while there are a certain number of offenders of that nature in every prison population. I feel that like myself most of us are not looked at as individuals, but are just catalogued and warehoused.

I have asked myself, why am I here? Good question you might say. All I did to get to this hell hole was ask for a little help for my fellow prisoners I felt were being pushed aside and not getting the proper medical and psychiatric help they needed. Their welfare was in my mind. Where was the administration's and why were they deaf to these demands? Where was their compassion? Where was the help and why was it not given?

I am not writing this article to bring attention to my problems, but to just show one of many such cases that happen every day in here. They talk about the thousands of dollars they spend to keep one of us here. But I ask you, what percentage of that money is wasted? Most men go out of here bitter, more confused and psychologically disturbed. Granted there weren't too many of us that weren't sent here because we didn't commit a crime, but if these places do not offer some insight into why crime happens and doesn't do something to curb the recidivism rate, before you know, we will have one half of society policing the other half.

I know prison doesn't work, you know prison doesn't work. So I ask you again, why? I do not have a ready made answer, but you as a citizen, tax payer, I think it is about time you concerned yourself. I believe this problem of prison reform should concern you, because in the next decade or so, don't be at all surprised if some member of your family is sitting in here asking the same question. Where is the justice in Canada's penitentiaries?

Kenneth Collison

THE ODYSSEY GROUP RASPBERRY

TO

THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER B.C.

For making Canada's Auschwitz, B.C. Penitentiary, into a tourist attraction to satisfy the morbid and sadistic desires of the public. You have set up a place where countless men have suffered and died as a National Monument.

Congratulations, you deserve this.

In George Orwell's novel 1984, the ministry that conducted war was called the Ministry of Peace, and the ministry that ran the police force was the Ministry of Love. In Ontario the people who run the jails are called the Ministry of Correctional Services.

Sean O'Flynn

THE BUG

Somehow or other the powers that be have decided that I am some kind of a bug. Nothing that they can get some high-powered shrink to put a scientific name to or anything like that. Just a bug. Just one that doesn't seem to act the way a man in a state torture chamber should act.

That kind of throws them off. Like how do you practice behavior modification on some bug that doesn't take you seriously? If I should happen to go on a drunk or something equally foolish, there really isn't too much they can do about it. I think that bugs them too. Because I treat the hole with the same lack of interest that I treat the rest of the wonderful methods they use to reform me.

One would think that after all of these years they would somehow find a method to get through to me. After all, the government spends millions of dollars just for that purpose. I have come to realize that I am an extremely slow learner at the best of times, but even Rip Van Winkle woke up after twenty years.

Perhaps I really am a bug. I either have to accept that or accept the fact that the government is spending its money very foolishly. Like they've put the horse behind the cart. The lunatics they hired to alter my conduct are the real bugs.

That is not a very nice thing to say. Even to think of calling those nice people lunatics makes me blush. They are not lunatics; they are just poor misguided fools. They are told to make a nice little zombie out of me and then are faced with the fact that becoming a zombie really doesn't appeal to me. Not only does it not appeal to me, but I am going to do everything in my power to defeat them. That, of course, is a very simple thing for me. All I had to do is learn to understand what they were really trying to do to me and refuse to give their actions any credibility. Like treat them as though they were little ants running around in a silly little pack with me

standing over them with a detached interest. The poor little ants can't hurt me.

Sometimes I try to be amusing. It often comes with a great deal of difficulty though. I try to be amused with the rules the powers that be have laid down to govern my conduct. Somehow or other, I just haven't been able to reach that state of hilarity. Too many cons think the rules governing their conduct are extremely foolish. Unfortunately, I don't think that way at all. They only appear to be foolish to those who have not really given thought to the real reasons behind those rules.

I have given a lot of thought to the reasons for all of those rules and sometimes, in my more lucid moments, I realise what each and every one of them are for. They are formulated for the express purpose of destroying me. Destroy me as a thinking individual. They are designed with the intent of turning me into a robot. They really aren't all that different than the techniques used by the Chinese to turn nice little capitalists into dirty little communists during the Korean War. It was called brainwashing at that time. Now it's called behavior modification.

Every rule, no matter how silly it may appear to be, has essentially one object in mind. That objective is submission. Every time you submit to one of their silly rules it makes it that much easier to submit to the next one. Just like teaching a dog new tricks. Start with a small one and, given enough time, you will soon have him jumping through any hoop you want him too. He is no longer a dog guided by his own instincts, but rather a robot that moves whenever his master gives the correct command.

Because I know most of their silly methods, it should be easy for me to defeat them. Unfortunately, it isn't. I very much fear for our future. Prisons used to be places where convicts were held to serve a given sentence of punishment. It was a physical approach at the time. A very tough way to live, but still a life a convict could learn to cope with. Unfortunately, prisons are no longer

just a physical trip. It is now strictly a psychological one.

During the last twenty years, the universities have been turning out social scientists by the thousands. A lot of them have turned to prison work and the treatment of convicts under the guise of rehabilitation. They come into the prisons with all sorts of nice text book theories on how to modify behavior. People like me are no longer allowed to be pleasant bugs. We just don't fit into the type of prison they want to create. We don't fit in, and we have learned to fear them.

As prisons stand today, we can somehow survive them. We don't like them but have learned to survive in them and still retain some resemblance to Human Beings. We won't be able to survive the "Clockwork Orange" of the future.

Perhaps it sounds as though I am becoming paranoid, and maybe I am to a certain extent, but that doesn't alter the fact that I have observed the changes in prison. I have seen them, felt them, and above all, have had to live with them.

Behavior modification has already become acceptable to most citizens. If a con acts up, hit him with a strong tranquilizer. Do nothing to correct the problems a prisoner faces; just pacify him. If you can't do it with bullshit, hit him with chemicals. If that doesn't do it, there is always aversion therapy that will. They even try to hand you the crap that it is strictly a volunteer trip. Nonsense! As the United States Supreme Court ruled, convicts cannot volunteer for anything. They either go along with the head trips or die in prison. There are no paroles for those refusing "treatment" and the courts have seen to it that most convicts have long enough sentences to last them a life time.

The days of surviving prison are numbered. We very much fear for the chemical future.

Tommy Smith

A TRIBUTE TO THE MILLHAVEN ODYSSEY GROUP

Together in a prison hall
A few brave men were standing tall
Back to back, against the wall
Prepared to fight before they fall
For human rights of one and all.

In the midst of all they saw
They kept an eye on Ottawa
They watched this government of snobs
Sneak about and do its jobs
And in complete hypocrisy
Give it a name: democracy.

The hierarchy was held on high
No one, they thought, we can't buy
The price is right
The shit will fly.

Deep within the prison then
Prepared to stand up and be men
Some destroyed by poverty
Would make a claim on liberty
In recognition of collective plights
Set out to fight for human rights.

The men that came and carried on
The names are great, the lists¹ are long
Howie, George, Bobby, Glenn...
An appropriate name: an Odyssey², friend
To open up the prison wall
And bare the facts before us all.
The briefs³ are studies of the truth
This system rotten: here's the proof.

1. Howard Brown, George Watson, Robert and Glen Landers and those who join with them in the heroic struggle.
2. The Odyssey Group, Millhaven Prison.
3. Researched documents provided to media and public representatives outlining prison conditions, demanding change.

Quickly now the system's hacks,
Ruffled feathers, must make tracks.
Earn their pay by breaking backs...

The Odyssey has made its point
It's really shaken up the joint
They're telling people where it's at
We can't sit still or stand for that
Transfers, deaths what'er it takes
Those at the top, they know the stakes
Silence it or it will spread
Do it now or else we're dead.

Censorship in freedom's name
Those that represent the system claim
Distort the truth if you must
The Odyssey's our biggest bust
The Odyssey has got to end
Change that constitution friend
No more briefs now that's the rule
Call them Working Papers, fool.

Stop that talk, stop I say
All that talk about Prison Justice Day
August 10th is set aside
In commemoration of those who've died
A day of fast and non-violent recognition
To draw public attention to the prison condition.

Visitors are welcome though admission is
restricted
Through fear you may become addicted
To seeing more than goes on inside
Correspondence has been censored, access has
been denied.

People look around you
Don't accept it all as fate
Pick up and join our struggle¹
Before it is too late.

1. For solidarity in non-violent resistance
to oppression.

And now throughout all Canada
Free people will rejoice
Harken to the movement
For the prisoners have found their voice.

Ray Sunstrum
Dawn, September 11, 1979.

A jail is just an institutional garbage can where they put people the courts have decided are social refuse. The system does its best to persuade you that the people who put you there were right. If you come out thinking that you don't have any worth, then the system worked. If you come out thinking you have some dignity, it missed.

Sean O'Flynn

Sean served 23 days in a Toronto jail for contempt of court. His contempt was leading the Ontario Jail guards on an illegal strike. Judging from his interviews since he was released, the charges should have read disgust, not contempt.

Humanity is still waiting for the revolution of revolutions that will not exchange prisoners but will do away with prisons.

Menachem Begin

I looked out of my cell window and saw the rain. It made me want to go outside and let the rain wash away the accumulated filth from my soul. So I went outside only to discover the rain had stopped.

Does the Warden have to control the rain?

HAVE MERCY ON THE CRIMINAL

By SHANN.

Have mercy on the criminal
Who has to serve his time
Living in a convict city
Where nothing seems to rhyme.

Sickened thoughts of summer sun
Time goes by so slow
Waiting for when their time is done,
And, for when they're free to go.

Iron bars and cement walls
Wont let them get away
The outside world, it calls and calls
As they think of yesterday.

Memories plaque their dreams
And wake them up at night
Inside, their heart, it screams
When they think how nothing is right.

You can lie and ponder on your thoughts
Of life and love,
The way it should be
The way it's not.

Nobody should be locked up
In a dark and dingy cell
It's a wonder you don't crack up
While going through this hell.

Putting up with jokers
Whose only talk is jive
Makes you wonder why
You go on to survive.

This world is full of bastards
Who don't know where it's at
They'll lie and cheat with dirty words
Smiling when they rat.

If I see them on the street
I'll spit right in their face
Knowing what they're like
And, that they should be in your place.

.....

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU NOW

By SHANN

I know your eyes
Your smile
The arms that held me
All these things I recall.
How shall I forget
The love you brought to me?
Unselfish,
Undying,
The sweetness of your kiss,
Your lips,
The fire in your heart
Dancing on your breath
When we made love,
Such vibrant passion
As we wildly carressed each other
My body yearns for the time
We'll be together once more.
Let them take my blood,
That I may feel you,
Touch you once more,
For I can't live without you now.

IN THE QUIETEST MOMENTS

By SHANN

Sometimes in the quietest moments
Reality seems so absurd,
When your mind is open to fantasy, and,
Reason is unheard, and,
You drift into the horizon of the setting sun,
To the edge of the river where you used to run,
And, you feel the warmth you felt then,
And, you hurt to remember the time when,
You walked arm and arm across the lawn,
And, how life has changed so much since---
He's been gone

.....

ALL SHANN's POEMS ARE DEDICATED TO DARRYL

The social interests which are translated into legal rights
are almost always the right of a limited group of men.

Laski

If you take the Lord's name in vain, you are only frowned
upon. If you take a judge's name in vain, you go to jail
for contempt of court. It's funny how a little political
bootlicking can make you bigger than God.

NOW I'LL BE SET FREE

The razor cuts
The blood flows
Such a beautiful colour
Red as a rose

Why did I do it
Why did I slash
I'll try to answer
Before time has passed

The system has done it
They thought they had me
Taken years from my life
Now I'll be set free

They want many more years
To screw with my head
But who will do them
Once I am dead

Where will I go
Who knows for sure
But if there's a hell
I'll go for a tour

The goddamn monotony
Day after day
These years are too many
I'll try it my way

The time has now come
So good-bye my friend
Perhaps a beginning
But surely an end

J.R. Boisclair

Imbedded
Between walls
A vegetating corpse
Beaten down
By the man,
Fear,
Uncertainty
Torment
My mind,
But wait...
A spark
Of life
Deep
In my brain,
Minute hope
In my heart,
I watch,
I wait...
My chance
To escape

Fred Jo Morry

1972

Friday night in S.C.U.*
Listening to C.H.O.M.
And wondering if
The stars are shining
Or if they're hidden by clouds
Like my thoughts.

* Special Correction Unit
Quebec

Silent prisoners
Surviving in dreams
Of uncertain tomorrows,
Walk aimlessly
Within cages
Furnished in loneliness.

FOR RENE G

The two spotlights
Blaze a stark white path
Through the dark May night,
Searching, ever searching
The elusive shadows
Moving slowly across
The big prison yard;
Silently a man stares blindly
Between the bars of his cell,
Shivering inwardly
As if being lashed
By a cold winter wind,
Confused in his mind
He wonders if society
Expects him to stay a man
Or become the animal
His cage suggests.

Fred Jo Morry

Morry's Philosophy

'All the world
is a prison.
At least til
You're dead.'

'FOR JANET'

With your memory filling my mind
I write this poem for you,
You who shared my yesterdays,
Giving freely of your inner beauty
Until our every truth was devoured
And we turned away, sadly empty
To become lost among the years.

Fred Jo Morry

PAINS OF TIME

Yesterdays freedom lost
Beyond fences of wire-mesh,
Strung with barbed wire
To tear men's flesh.
In seven by ten foot cells
Of steel and stone,
Pallid faced men silently
Cry out their fear alone.
Each new day passes away
Exactly the same,
So it seems time stands still,
An endless pain.
Forgotten between the years
A lifer suddenly breaks,
Tears flowing down his cheeks
He babbles and shakes.
Memories become hazy shadows
Void of any meaning,
Yet the hope of escape
Keeps prisoners quietly scheming.

Fred Jo Morry

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